IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A method of stimulating an immune response in a human or animal subject, which method comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of an attenuated herpes simplex virus (HSV) which:

(i) lacks a functional vhs gene~~, or a functional equivalent thereof~~;

(ii) lacks a functional gene encoding ICP47~~, or a functional equivalent thereof~~; and

(iii) ~~comprises~~ lacks a functional ~~UL43~~ ICP34.5 gene~~, or a functional equivalent thereof such that dendritic cells are infected with said virus~~.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~virus is a herpes simplex virus~~ HSV is HSV 1 or HSV 2.

Claims 3-5 (canceled)

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said virus comprises a heterologous gene.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6, wherein said heterologous gene is operably linked to a control sequence permitting expression of said heterologous gene in a dendritic cell.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6, wherein said heterologous gene encodes a polypeptide of therapeutic use.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6, wherein said heterologous gene encodes a polypeptide selected from: a polypeptide, the level of expression of which is increased in or on the surface of tumour cells as compared to non-tumour cells; and a polypeptide which is present in or on the surface of tumour cells but absent from non-

tumour cells~~; a polypeptide capable of modifying immune responses; and a polypeptide of parasitic, viral or bacterial origin~~.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6, wherein said virus comprises more than one heterologous gene.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 8, wherein said heterologous gene ~~or genes~~ encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: a polypeptide capable of modulating an immune response; and a polypeptide of parasitic, viral or bacterial origin.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said heterologous gene capable of modulating an immune response encodes a chemokine, cytokine or co-stimulatory molecule.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is a human subject.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the virus is administered by injection, by infusion, by an intra- or trans-dermal route or by biolistic means.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the subject is in need of treatment of or protection against a pathogenic infection.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 9, wherein the subject is in need of treatment of or protection against cancer.

17. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein said subject is in need of treatment of, or protection against, HSV1 or HSV2 infection.

18. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein said heterologous gene is an HSV gene that is not operably linked to the viral control sequences with which it is naturally associated.

19. (new) A method of stimulating an immune response in a human or animal subject, which method comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of an attenuated herpes simplex virus (HSV) which:

(i) lacks a functional vhs gene;

(ii) lacks a functional gene encoding ICP47;

(iii) lacks a functional ICP34.5 gene; and

(iv) lacks a functional UL43 gene.

20. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said HSV is HSV1 or HSV2.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein said subject is in need of treatment or protection against HSV1 or HSV2 infection.

22. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said virus comprises a heterologous gene.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein said heterologous gene is operably linked to a control sequence permitting expression of said heterologous gene in a dendritic cell.

24. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein said heterologous gene encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: a polypeptide, the level of expression of which is increased in or on the surface of tumour cells as compared to non-tumour cells; and a polypeptide which is present in or on the surface of tumour cells but absent from non-tumour cells.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the subject is in need of treatment of or protection against cancer.

26. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein said heterologous gene encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: a polypeptide capable of modifying immune responses; and a polypeptide of parasitic, viral or bacterial origin.

27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the subject is in need of treatment of or protection against a pathogenic infection.

28. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein said heterologous gene is an HSV gene that is not operably linked to the viral control sequences with which it is naturally associated.

29. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said subject is a human subject.

30. (new) A method of stimulating an immune response in a human or animal subject, which method comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of an attenuated herpes simplex virus (HSV) which:

(i) lacks a functional vhs gene;

(ii) lacks a functional gene encoding ICP47;

(iii) lacks a functional ICP34.5 gene; and

(iv) comprises a functional UL43 gene.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein said HSV is HSV1 or HSV2.

32. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein said subject is in need of treatment of or protection against HSV1 or HSV2 infection.

33. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein said virus comprises a heterologous gene.

34. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein said heterologous gene is operably linked to a control sequence permitting expression of said heterologous gene in a dendritic cell.

35. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein said heterologous gene encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: a polypeptide, the level of expression of which is increased in or on the surface of tumour cells as compared to non-tumour cells; and a polypeptide which is present in or on the surface of tumour cells but absent from non-tumour cells.

36. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein the subject is in need of treatment of or protection against cancer.

37. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein said heterologous gene encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: a polypeptide capable of modifying immune responses; and a polypeptide of parasitic, viral or bacterial origin.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the subject is in need of treatment of or protection against a pathogenic infection.

39. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein said heterologous gene is an HSV gene that is not operably linked to the viral control sequences with which it is naturally associated.

40. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein said subject is a human subject.